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City of Barrie

Minutes - Final

International Relations Committee

Wednesday, June 16, 2021 | **5:00 PM** | **Virtual Meeting**

For consideration by the Finance and Corporate Services Committee on September 14, 2021

The meeting was called to order by the Chair, D. Morrison at 5:03 p.m. The following were in attendance for the meeting:

Present: 19 - Chairman D. Morrison - Arras France
Deputy Mayor B. Ward
Vice Chair M. Sachkiw - Japan Twinning
J. Babcock - Youth Ambassadors
B. Brookes - The Borough of Harrogate
C. Cudmore - Arras France
R. Gardiner - Japan Twinning
T. Gardiner - Japan Twinning
I. Jodoin - Arras France
L. Lalonde - Arras France
L. LeRoux - The Borough of Harrogate
R. LeRoux - The Borough of Harrogate
L. Palson - Georgian College
J. M. Pigeon - German Twinning
P. Sachkiw - Japan Twinning
B. Sergeant - The Borough of Harrogate
K. Shirakura - Georgian College
S. Scully-Pratt - Youth Ambassadors
R. Warman - German Twinning

Absent: 4 - Lieutenant-Colonel C. Coulbeck - Base Borden
G. Johnston - Japan Twinning
J. Laking - German Twinning
H. Noguchi - Japan Twinning

STAFF:
Committee Support Clerk, T. Maynard.

The International Relations Committee met and reports as follows:

COMMITTEE BUDGET

Dave Morrison, Chair provided an update concerning the Committee's 2021 Budget. T. Maynard, Committee Support Clerk provided an update regarding the Committee's reserve account.

Mr. Morrison explained that there has been no activity with the City's twinning/partnerships recently due to the pandemic but that the Committee needs to look ahead to the balance of year 2021 and 2022 for budget purposes in anticipation of activities resuming. He mentioned that each sub-committee representative has provided him with a list of anticipated expenditures related to the City's twinning/partnerships for the balance of 2021 and 2022.

BARRIE INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS WEB PRESENCE

Dave Morrison, Chair provided an update regarding Barrie International Relations web presence. He explained that the existing youth ambassadors' website is currently out of date and needs to be updated. He mentioned that the website contains information about past and present Youth Ambassador and Global Perspectives Programs.

Mr. Morrison explained that it has been decided to expand the new website to include historical information related to the City's twinning/partnerships and Sir Robert Barrie Project in addition to the Youth Ambassadors and Global Perspectives Programs which will provide a web presence and become the International Partners Website.

Mr. Morrison mentioned that a former graduate of the Global Perspectives Program, Ciaran Byles-Ho who is now a student at Queen's University will be working with him to create a new design concept for the International Partners website. The Committee discussed providing Ciaran Byles-Ho with an honorarium for creating the International Partners website, as he is a student.

Each of the sub-committees of the International Relations Committee will provide historical information related to the City's twinning/partnerships and Sir Robert Barrie, to Mr. Byles-Ho for inclusion for the new website.

The Committee approved the expenditure of funds from the International Relations Committee cost centre 1026 500900 to be paid to Ciaran Byles-Ho in an amount not to exceed $3,000.00 in order to update, expand and create a new International Partners Website.

JAPAN TWINNING UPDATE

Mark Sachkiw provided an update regarding Japan Twinning. He explained that he has received no firm commitments from Murayama, Japan regarding adult or youth exchanges. He mentioned that the Council of Murayama, Japan will be meeting to discuss the youth exchange program between the two municipalities. Mr. Sachkiw suggested that a Barrie youth delegation travel to Murayama, Japan in 2022 followed by a Japan youth delegation visiting Barrie in 2023.

YOUTH AMBASSADORS UPDATE

The Committee discussed the status of the Youth Ambassadors visits as follows:

Murayama, Japan

Shannon Scully-Pratt provided an update regarding the youth exchange with Murayama, Japan. She mentioned that it is hoped that a youth delegation from Barrie can travel to Murayama, Japan in 2022. Ms. Scully-Pratt advised that she has plans to start a pen pal type project with Murayama, Japan in the fall for the youth ambassador program.

Zweibrüucken, Germany

Jamie Babcock provided an update regarding the Global Perspectives Program. He advised that there has been no confirmation on the 2021/2022 Global Perspectives Program as he is waiting on approval from the Simcoe County District School Board regarding the youth exchanges. He anticipates having further information on the Global Perspectives Program by August, 2021.

Mr. Babcock advised that students in the 2020/2021 Global Perspectives Program will be hosting a video meeting with students from Zweibrücken, Germany on June 17, 2021.

GERMAN TWINNING AND GERMAN CANADIAN CLUB UPDATE

Rob Warman provided an update regarding Zweibrücken, Germany. Mr. Warman advised that 2022 will mark the 25th Anniversary of the City of Barrie's twinning relationship with Zweibrucken, Germany. He mentioned that preparations are taking place to mark the significant milestone in 2022 which includes inviting a delegation from Zweibrücken, Germany to Barrie to celebrate the occasion.

Mr. Warman suggested having a granite bench built and installed potentially in the vicinity of the Military Heritage Park to commemorate the occasion. Tammie Maynard, Committee Support Clerk will invite staff from the Operations Department to the next meeting to discuss the plans for the granite bench.

There was no report provided regarding the German Canadian Club.

HARROGATE, NORTH YORKSHIRE UNITED KINGDOM UPDATE

Bill Sergeant provided an update regarding Harrogate, North Yorkshire United Kingdom. He explained that there are preliminary plans to begin an adult exchange between rugby teams in Harrogate, United Kingdom and the Barrie Rugby Club. Lou LeRoux mentioned that she has not received any further information from the Harrogate Rugby Team but will follow up and provide an update at the next meeting.

ARRAS, FRANCE UPDATE

Dave Morrison, Chair provided an update regarding Arras, France. He explained that Barrie North Collegiate had shown a great interest in pursuing a student exchange with Arras, France but that due to the COVID-19 pandemic and staff changes at the school, a youth exchange may not happen until 2023. He explained that plans with Arras, France are to start with youth exchanges between the two municipalities first, followed by adult exchanges in the future.

SIR ROBERT BARRIE PROJECT UPDATE

Bill Sergeant provided an update regarding the Sir Robert Barrie Project. Mr. Sergeant advised that June 7th had been proclaimed by the Mayor as Sir Robert Barrie Day in honour of the City's namesake. He described that in recognition of Sir Robert Barrie Day, that the Borough of Harrogate North Yorkshire United Kingdom flag was raised at City Hall. He explained that the Sir Robert Barrie Project Committee held a Sir Robert Barrie Day Poetry Contest that was open to all students in Grade 8 and 9. Mr. Sergeant advised that the winners were presented with their prizes virtually on June 7th as part of the celebrations. Mr. Sergeant announced the winners are as follows:

- First Prize: Cassandra Parent
- Second Prize: Levi Taylor
- Third Prize: Lucas Pennell

Mr. Sergeant outlined what the Sir Robert Barrie Committee will be putting together for the new website on the Committee's projects and historical information regarding Sir Robert Barrie.

Bill Sergeant discussed a potential proposal for creating flag banners related City's twinning/partnership for the downtown Barrie area. The Committee provided their feedback to Mr. Sergeant regarding the flag banners.

The meeting adjourned at 5:45 p.m.

CHAIRMAN